
Some of the original steps from the Eiffel Tower and old street lamps from the Champs Elysees are being sold at auction later today. The sale is being organised to celebrate the 120th birthday of the Eiffel Tower. Alasdair Sandford reports:

The **engraved** windows from a railway station **brasserie**; a **newspaper kiosk** from the Belle Epoque of the early 1900s, a **metro ticket-punching machine**, even a 19th century **street urinal**. These and hundreds of other **relics** from the French capital's past **are going under the hammer**. The idea for the auction, called 'Paris Mon Amour', came after a nearby town **put up** for sale an eight metre section of the Eiffel Tower's original **spiral staircase**. It's expected to fetch more than \$100,000.

Other treasures, such as a piece of dried bread from the Franco-Prussian War, might fetch slightly less. But the worldwide demand for **catalogues** suggests that interest is high.

Alasdair Sandford, BBC News, Paris

Vocabulary and definitions

engraved	words or pictures cut into a surface (of wood, stone, or here, glass)
brasserie	(a French word which is used in English) small restaurant or cafe which sells cheap, simple food
newspaper kiosk	small wooden building (usually on the pavement) from where someone sells newspapers
a metro ticket-punching machine	a machine that is used to check the validity of passengers' tickets on the underground transport system by, for example, making a hole in or stamping the date on the ticket
street urinal	public male toilet
relics	very old objects
are going under the hammer	will be auctioned (in an auction things are sold publicly and people make higher and higher offers of money until the thing is sold to the person who is willing to pay most)
put up	offered
spiral staircase	set of steps which goes round in a spiral (like a corkscrew), in a curved way
catalogues	books which show what objects will be offered in an upcoming auction

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